



29th September 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

I am writing to inform you we were notified on Tuesday 29th September 2020 that there has been a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the school community, the positive case is a member of teaching staff. I apologise for this lengthy letter, but I do wish to maintain a clear line of communication with you so that as parents, and important people in our community, you have clear facts and we share a sense of truth, trust and honesty. To date, this means we have had 5 positive cases: 2 in year 7; 1 in year 11; 1 member of associate staff and 1 member of teaching staff. Previous advice was that tutor/learning/friendship groups should go into isolation, and in some local schools, year groups have gone into isolation. However, this morning's advice from DfE and Public Health England is that we establish close contacts and it is those, not whole year groups, who are asked to isolate.

We have been liaising with Department for Education (DfE) Public Health England (PHE) and the local Health Protection Team. I can confirm that the member of staff was not in school whilst symptomatic and has been absent since Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020. In line with PHE guidance, we have identified those who have been in close contact and our risk assessment is that we require 3 pupils and 5 staff to self-isolate for 14 days, returning to school on Wednesday 7th October 2020. The parents of the pupils have been contacted and will receive a separate letter with further details of provision for remote learning for the isolation period.

We will be doing our very best to continue our full provision for all year groups and appreciate your support in these difficult times. We have been reassured that the risk of infection within the wider school community from this case is minimal and that all appropriate action has been taken. **Therefore, the school will remain open as usual for all pupils and staff who have not received a phone call, letter or text informing them that they need to self-isolate.**

This does provide a useful reminder of how important it is that the measures we have in school to help prevent the spread of infection are followed and also how vital it is to respond swiftly if any household members present with symptoms of COVID-19. We will be reminding all students and staff of these points on an ongoing basis.

It is important that you read the following information which has been provided by Public Health England. We are asking you to do this to reduce the further spread of COVID 19 to others in the community.

## **COVID-19 Symptoms**

If your child is well now, they do not need any specific treatment. However, you should be vigilant for any symptoms of COVID-19 infection.

The common symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- a high temperature, and/or
- a new continuous cough
- loss of sense of taste or smell

If you, or anyone in your family, have these symptoms now, or in the future, stay at home and contact NHS 111 for advice. Testing for people with symptoms is available and more information can be found [here](#).

## **Precautions**

There are things you can do to avoid catching or spreading coronavirus:

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- when you leave your home, always wash your hands when you return
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards
- try to avoid close contact with people who are unwell

More information on COVID-19 is available on these websites from the [NHS](#) and the [Government](#).

Keeping our children and families, staff and local community safe is our priority. It is vital that we follow government guidance and the advice from the local Public Health England Health Protection Team. We realise that you may have questions about the situation: if this is the case please email [office@kingshurst.tgacademy.org.uk](mailto:office@kingshurst.tgacademy.org.uk)

Please note that we will not be able to discuss any details relating to the individual case but will do our best to answer any general questions that you may have as promptly as we can.

Thank you for your support in helping to keep everyone at our school safe.

Yours sincerely,

Mr D Turner

Executive Principal



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